

CLAIMS

5 1. A method for discovering the topology of a network comprising:  
initially resolving the positions of the end stations, and subsequently resolving  
the topology of the remaining devices.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the step of initially resolving the  
positions of the end stations comprises, for each managed device, determining which  
ports are only connected to an end station.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the step of resolving the topology of  
the remaining devices comprises:  
querying for each managed device, which ports have learnt the address of  
another managed device.

4. A computer program on a computer readable medium loadable into a digital  
computer or embodied in a carrier wave, said program including software for carrying  
out the method of claim 1.

5. A computer program on a computer readable medium loadable into a digital  
computer or embodied in a carrier wave, for discovering the topology of a network  
comprising:

a program step to query a port of a managed device for a first address of any  
packet which has been received;

a program step for querying the same port of the device for a second address  
of any packet which has been received;

if there is no second address, returning relevant data to a manager and  
determining if there is another port on the device;

*↳ detect end  
station*

if there is a second address, determining if there is another port on the device;

if there is another port on the device, repeating the preceding four steps for  
another port of the managed device;

if not, repeating the preceding five steps in respect of another managed device.

*↳ position of  
managed devices*